

U.S. Serial No. 10/538,417
International Filing Date: December 13, 2002

REMARKS

Claims 17, 19-21, 23, 26, 28, 29, 31 and 32 are pending in the Subject Application. Claims 19, 23, 28 and 32 are amended, and claims 17, 20-22, 24-27, 29-31 are canceled by this response. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments. Basis for the amendments is in the claims and the specification as filed.

Claim Objections

Claims 23 and 32 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but were also indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 23 and 32 are amended herein to place the claims in independent form by adding the subject matter of the base claim and any intervening dependent claims to claims 23 and 32. Claims 19 and 28 have been amended to depend from claims 23 and 32, respectively. The remaining claims have been canceled, without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to pursue prosecution of the canceled claims in a continuation application.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants have made every effort to advance prosecution of the Subject Application. No new matter is introduced by the amendments. Claims 23, 19, 32 and 28 recite a novel and nonobvious invention and are in condition for allowance.

If the undersigned can be of any assistance to the Examiner in addressing any remaining issues, the Examiner is urged to please contact the undersigned attorney at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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